



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan extends support for the construction of a special education unit at Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School

Gaborone, 18th April 2024 - The Government of Japan and Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School celebrated the successful handover of a special education block at Marulamantsi CJSS, in the South East District, through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The block was constructed following a grant contract signing agreement between the two organizations in March 2023, when Marulamantsi CJSS received an amount of USD 80,349 from the Government of Japan through its Embassy in Botswana.

When delivering the welcome remarks, Mr. Amos Muzila, the School Head for Marulamantsi CJSS indicated that the realization of the project was a result of the collective efforts between the Embassy of Japan and the school. He further stated that, the project was completed within the allocated time and budget, which is a commendable effort from both parties. Mr. Muzila concluded his speech by expressing his gratitude to the People of Japan for such a great gesture and emphasized that the constructed building will be well taken care of and utilized for its intended purpose.

In delivering his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, highlighted that the new facility represents hope, opportunity, and a renewed commitment to breaking down barriers to learning. The Ambassador further stated that Japan has long believed in the power of education to transform lives and build brighter futures and that the project reaffirms Japan's commitment to supporting inclusive education initiatives worldwide. In conclusion, he urged the students to seize every opportunity that comes their way and to embrace learning with enthusiasm, curiosity, and determination, knowing that they have the support of their teachers, community, and the people of Japan.

When delivering thanksgiving remarks, Kgosi Arnold Somolekae, representing the Gaborone West Customary Court, indicated that the Embassy's contribution will not only benefit Marulamantsi CJSS but the Gaborone West community as whole. This is because the facility will be used for community engagement projects which aim to foster inclusive education for all students especially those with special needs as well as the provision of counselling services for students and their parents.

Representing the Gaborone City Council, Deputy Mayor Mr. Oduetse Tautona indicated that, he is grateful that amongst many applications, Marulamantsi CJSS was awarded the grant to construct the special education block. He further highlighted that this gesture would assist in fostering a great

relationship between Botswana and the People of Japan. In his conclusion Mr. Tautona urged the students and the teachers to take good care of the facility.

Through the GGP scheme, Japan has supported 67 projects in Botswana that address human security issues. This is in line with the Botswana Government's aspiration, envisaged in Vision 2036, particularly under the pillar of Human and Social Development, to achieve a moral, tolerant, and inclusive society that provides opportunity for all.

*GGP is a grant scheme which supports projects addressing social challenges and/or aiming at community development at grass-roots level and supports people-centred development projects which have a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities. In Botswana, from 1997 to date, 67 GGP projects in total have been approved, some of which are currently on-going. These projects include rural developments such as the construction of pre-schools, classrooms for students with disabilities and vocational training institutions.



Ambassador of Japan to Botswana His Excellency Mr. OHMORI Setsuo delivering the Keynote Speech



School Head of Marulamantsi CJSS Mr. Amos Muzila giving welcome remarks



Official opening of the SPED block



Mr. OHMORI Setuo and Mr. Oduetse Tautona with the Marulamantsi Students Representative Council



Guests during the special Education Block tour



Marualamantsi CJSS Student, Mr. Eric Thatayamodimo, delivering a poem